

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACTIVISM OF ANN HANNA WALSH

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations and to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Ann Hanna Walsh, beloved wife of the late, great Jerry Walsh, and beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and matriarch of the notorious Walsh clan of South Minneapolis, who has been a lifelong proponent of social justice, women's liberation, and equal rights for all.

Her children will lovingly recount the time in the early 1970's when Ann, a feminist from the start, planted a sign that read "White Racism Must Go" in the front yard of the family home. That righteous fire still burns in her today.

A 1948 graduate of Washburn High School, Ann married Jerry in 1953. The couple moved to Evanston, Illinois and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and back to Minneapolis where they raised six children, all of whom took the life lessons learned from their parents out into the world. In midlife, Ann joined her current community of The Church of Saint Leonard of Port Maurice, and became a successful insurance agent, which allowed for annual family reunions at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge.

An avid reader, Ann also melded her love of bridge and golf with her close friend group THE GABS, and, as a music lover, the Belfast Cowboys' summer concert at Lake Harriet was one of her favorite days of the year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ann Hanna Walsh and her remarkable achievement of 95 years worth of family, community, values, and faith.

HONORING VETERAN CHARLES A. MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Charles A. Moore, a distinguished veteran of Greenwood, Mississippi, whose life of service, leadership, and dedication to community stands as an inspiring testament to the values that strengthen our Nation.

Born in September 1943 and raised in the Browning Road community of Greenwood, Mr. Moore was shaped by the guidance of his father, a laborer and farmer, and his mother, an elementary school teacher. Their example instilled in him a deep respect for education, hard work, and public service.

Mr. Moore attended Browning Road Elementary School and graduated from Broad Street High School in 1961. He went on to pursue higher education at Morehouse Col-

lege in Atlanta, Georgia before answering the call to serve his country. In January 1963, he entered the United States Army, serving honorably until January 1966. He continued his military commitment in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1966 to 1969, the Air National Guard, and later as a Reservist in the United States Air Force. His combined service to the Nation spanned more than sixteen years, culminating in his honorable discharge in June 1979.

After completing his active duty, Mr. Moore attended Jackson State University, graduated in 1968, and later earned a master's degree in counseling from Mississippi State University. In 1969, he began a distinguished career at the Mississippi State Employment Service, where he served as an Employment Placement Counselor, Area Supervisor for Job Corps, and Counselor for Veterans. Through these roles, Mr. Moore devoted himself to helping countless individuals secure employment, rebuild their lives, and access new opportunities.

Mr. Moore's service extended far beyond his professional life. He is a devoted member of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in the Browning Road community, where he serves faithfully as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher. He is also an active member of American Legion Post 29 in Greenwood, Mississippi, honoring and uplifting fellow veterans through ongoing service.

In addition, Mr. Moore contributes to local civic life as a part-time radio commentator, providing insight, information, and connections to members of the community. In his personal time, he enjoys raising cows, a pastime that reflected his roots and his love of the land.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Charles A. Moore is a powerful example of steadfast service—to his Nation, his community, and his fellow citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his contributions and in expressing gratitude for his lifetime of dedication.

CELEBRATING THE STUDENTS OF LENEXA HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the students of Lenexa Hills Elementary School for designing the ornaments now proudly representing Kansas at the site of the National Christmas Tree.

Each year since 1923, President's Park in Washington, D.C. has hosted the National Christmas Tree, surrounded by trees representing each U.S. state, territory, and the District of Columbia. Those trees feature one-of-a-kind, student-crafted ornaments that reflect the unique characteristics of the state they call home.

This year, the students of Lenexa Hills put their creativity and Kansas pride on full dis-

play—designing colorful ornaments with beautiful visuals of sunflowers, bison, western meadowlarks, sprawling grasslands, and more of the wonderful things that make Kansas so special.

I thank the students of Lenexa Hills Elementary for this exceptional representation of our home state. I'm so proud to showcase the talent of our kids to the rest of the country. To quote the Kansas State motto: "To the stars through difficulties—Ad Astra Per Aspera."

HONORING MONICA MARTINEZ CHIN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monica Martinez Chin, a real estate professional and a leader who has made a lasting impact in our community.

In 2005, Monica moved to San Diego, where she worked to earn her real estate license and build a successful career.

Monica makes time to give back to her community as an active member of the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), an organization dedicated to increasing sustainable Hispanic homeownership.

Monica joined NAHREP San Diego in 2022 and was selected to serve as its president in 2024. Under her leadership, the organization saw tremendous growth with more local real estate professionals inspired to join and support its mission.

Monica believes that every individual deserves the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. Her leadership in the real estate industry and at NAHREP San Diego reflects her dedication to this goal. Her contributions have enriched the lives of those in her community.

Monica has proven that with determination and a heart for service, we can all make a positive difference in our communities. Monica's work has made San Diego a better place, and I am proud to recognize her.

APPRECIATING VIRGINIA BURNLEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Virginia J. Burnley, Chief Government Relations Officer at the United Service Organizations (USO), for her service to America over the past eight years.

Virginia joined the USO senior staff team in 2017 as Senior Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs, earning herself

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the title of Chief Government Relations Officer. She has excelled in this role and provided my staff and myself with outstanding service.

With many accomplishments, Virginia notably has more than 30 years of experience in the nonprofit community, senior levels of federal service, state government, and the private sector.

Since joining the USO, she has been a strong and steady champion for service members and their families, earning the deep respect of her colleagues and those she interacted with.

As we wish the best to Virginia, I am grateful to continue working with Clint Cowan, who currently serves as Senior Director of Government Relations and External Affairs at the USO.

America values Virginia's leadership, knowledge, and dedication. I wish for her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on December 9, 2025. If I were present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted aye on: Roll Call No. 315, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, S. 356, Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025, and Roll Call No. 316, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1676, Make SWAPs Efficient Act of 2025.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ESSIE M. RICHARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mother Essie M. Richards, a devoted woman of faith, a respected community leader, and a beloved matriarch who will celebrate her 100th birthday on January 26, 2026. Her century-long journey stands as a remarkable testament to service, perseverance, and unwavering faith.

Born the seventh of twelve children in Colleton County, South Carolina, Mother Richards was raised in a Christian home that instilled in her strong values of devotion, humility, and responsibility. She joined Jerusalem A.M.E. Church in 1937, beginning what would become more than eight decades of dedicated spiritual service.

After relocating to Savannah, Georgia, she joined Flipper Chapel A.M.E. Church, where she distinguished herself as a committed leader and servant of the church. She served as Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, Church Secretary, Trustee, President of the Lay Organization and Flower Club, and sang faithfully in the Senior Choir. She worked tirelessly with the Missionary Society and Youth Department, earning well-deserved recognition in 2006 for outstanding humanitarian and community service.

Her faithful service continued when she transferred to Julia Fountain A.M.E. Church in

1986. Nearly twenty years later, in 2005, she returned home to Jerusalem A.M.E.—now White Hall A.M.E.—under the leadership of Reverend Robert K. White, where she was appointed to the Steward Board.

Her professional life was marked by excellence and integrity. She spent 35 years as an Office Manager with the United States Air Force and the United States Army, gaining the respect and admiration of colleagues for her professionalism, reliability, and leadership.

Perhaps her most enduring legacy is her transformational impact on the Carver Heights Community, where she served from the late 1960's through 2006. She was Community President for 23 years and served as Community Secretary. She was a driving force behind the neighborhood's development into a thriving historic community. Her leadership helped bring about vital improvements, including the establishment of the Carver Heights Community Center—breaking ground in 1994 and opening in 1997.

Mother Richards led and supported countless initiatives: Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out, senior services, Meals on Wheels, youth programs, home repair projects, community beautification, historic research, block captain programs, and numerous acts of benevolence that strengthened families and neighborhoods.

Her decades of service earned her extensive recognition, including the 1995 Block Grant Award, the Environmental Justice Pioneer Award, multiple Outstanding Community Service Awards, National Exchange Club leadership honors, and numerous certificates of appreciation from the City of Savannah. Her family affectionately named her the "World's Greatest Grandmother" in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mother Essie M. Richards. Her life of faith, leadership, and community uplift continues to inspire all who know her, and her legacy will endure for generations.

RECOGNIZING DR. KAROL B. WIGHT ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding leadership and service of Dr. Karol B. Wight, who retires this year after fifteen years of exceptional stewardship at The Corning Museum of Glass. Since joining the Museum in 2011 and becoming president and executive director in 2015, Dr. Wight has guided the institution with vision and distinction, advancing its mission and inspiring countless visitors through her deep expertise in ancient artwork.

During her tenure, Dr. Wight curated landmark exhibitions, strengthened the Museum's research and educational programs, and championed initiatives that broadened public appreciation for the art and history of glass. Her scholarly leadership and dedication to her work have left a profound impact on the Museum and the community she has served.

In addition to her executive achievements, Dr. Wight has been an influential figure in the museum field. She has served on the board of

trustees of the American Alliance of Museums, played a leading role within the Association of Art Museum Directors, and contributed her expertise to organizations dedicated to the study of classical antiquity and the history of glass. Through these roles, she has strengthened professional collaboration, supported emerging leaders, and advanced the highest standards of museum practice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Dr. Karol Wight for her exemplary contributions and in celebrating her well-earned retirement. Her legacy will endure in the institutions she strengthened and the communities she inspired.

CELEBRATING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL MOSER

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coral Springs/Parkland Deputy Fire Chief Michael Moser for more than two decades of an exceptional career and distinguished service to his department, his community, and the residents of Broward County.

Deputy Chief Moser's career began in August of 2000 when he first volunteered with the department, followed by his hiring in July 2001. From those early days, he demonstrated a commitment to service that would shape not only his career but the very culture of the department. Over the years, he has served with distinction as a Firefighter Paramedic, Driver Engineer, Lieutenant, Captain, and later as Division Chief, a role he assumed in 2014. In 2020, he was promoted to Deputy Chief, where he continued to exemplify professionalism, integrity, and leadership.

Throughout his exemplary career, Deputy Chief Moser has earned numerous commendations, including one Lifesaving Commendation, seven Unit Citations, one Meritorious Duty Commendation, two Administrative Service Commendations, and three Team Citations. These honors represent not only his technical proficiency, but his bravery, his steadiness under pressure, and his ability to lead others in moments of crisis.

Deputy Chief Moser has also served in several leadership roles that have had lasting regional impact, including as co-chair of the Communications and Mutual Aid Subcommittee for the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County and Chair of the Joint Media Subcommittee for the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. He has been a dedicated member of multiple county committees, a founding member of the department's Honor Guard, and a board chairman of the Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation, ensuring the legacy of that community remains honored and remembered.

His service extends far beyond local boundaries. He has received numerous awards, including the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County President's Award in both 2018 and 2022, EMT of the Year in 2005, and the Firehouse Magazine Heroism and Community Service Award in 2002. As a member of USAR, he responded to major crises across the country and abroad, including deployments